

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF HINDLEY.



FIFTIETH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TOGETHER WITH THE

Report of the Sanitary Inspector,

FOR THE YEAR 1950.

HINDLEY:
FRED BRADLEY & SON LTD.
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Public Health Department,

Town Hall,

Hindley,

To the Chairman and Members of the Hindley Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of the District for the year 1950.

The Report is again much abbreviated, in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, but an endeavour has been made to embrace the most important details, and particularly those which indicate the state of health of the township.

I take this opportunity of tendering my best thanks to the Officials of the Council, the Staff of the Health Department, and especially to the Chief Sanitary Inspector, for valuable help and co-operation at all times.

I desire also to express to the Members of the Public Health Committee my appreciation of the courtesy and consideration they have always displayed towards me.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

G. H. POTTER,

Medical Officer of Health.

Medical Officer of Health.

G. H. POTTER, M.B., CH.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Consultant Obstetrician:

R. L. HARTLEY, M.D., F.R.C.S., M.R.C.O.G.

Consultant Pathologist and Bacteriologist:

J. L. DALES, M.B., CH.B., D.T.M., D.T.H.

Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon:

H. B. BARKER, M.B.B.S., LOND., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

County Dental Surgeon: - - T. N. ASHALL, L.D.S. (Liverpool).

Sanitary Inspectors:

THOS. FRANCE (Chief).

Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute;
Associate Member, Institute of Sanitary Engineers;
Meat Inspector's Certificates:—
 Royal Sanitary Institute;
 Liverpool University.

J. T. HAMPSON (Additional).

Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute;
Meat Inspector's Certificates—Liverpool University.
 Royal Sanitary Institute.
Smoke Inspector's Certificates—Liverpool University.
 Royal Sanitary Institute.

Clerical Staff:

Miss E. RIGBY.

1. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area: 2,612.21 acres.

Population (Census 1931): 21,629.

Estimated, mid-1950 (Registrar General): 19,500.

Total Number of Houses (Census 1931): 5,140.

Number of Inhabited Houses at end of 1950 according to Rate Books: 5,665.

Rateable Value: £72,514.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate: £276.55.

Hindley is essentially an industrial area. A cotton mill, a weaving shed, a paint works, an asbestos works, a steel scaffolding works, and five clothing factories, give employment to both sexes.

VITAL STATISTICS.

		Male	Female	TOTAL
Live Births—Legitimate	....	152	142	294
Illegitimate	....	7	3	10
TOTAL		159	145	304

		Male	Female	TOTAL
Still Births—Legitimate	....	2	4	6
Illegitimate	....	1	—	1
TOTAL		3	4	7

Death of Infants under 1 year of age:—

		Male	Female	TOTAL
Legitimate	....	8	7	15
Illegitimate	....	3	—	3
TOTAL		11	7	18
DEATHS	....	142	127	269

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population, mid-1950.....	15.6
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.....	13.8
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still) Births.....	23
No. of Women dying in, or in consequence of Pregnancy and Childbirth:	
From Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis	Nil
From other maternal causes	Nil
Maternal Death Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still) Births due to	
Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis	Nil
Maternal Death Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still) Births due to	
other causes	Nil
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—	
All Infants per 1,000 live births	59
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.....	51
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.....	300

TABLE 1.

Per 1,000 of Estimated Population.

Mean of 5 years—

		Live Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Death Rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	Cancer Death Rate
1945-1949	....	18.6	12.8	0.33	1.67
1949	....	15.7	13.6	0.36	1.55
1950	....	15.6	13.8	0.15	— *
Increase or Decrease in 1950 on—5 years' average 1945-1949	—3.0		+1.0	—0.18	— *
—on Previous year's average	—0.1		+0.2	—0.21	— *

* In view of the fact that the particulars of cancer deaths supplied for 1950 are not strictly comparable with those of previous years, the cancer death rate for 1950 has been omitted.

Maternal Mortality Rate.

Mean of 5 years—

	Per 1000 Live Births	Per 1000 Total (Live & Still Births	Rate of Deaths under 1 year per 1000 Live Births
1945—1949	2.83	2.74	54
1949	3.28	3.11	59
1950	Nil	Nil	59
Increase or Decrease in 1950 on—5 years' average 1945—1949	—2.83	—2.74	+ 5
—on Previous year's average	—3.28	—3.11	Nil

Subjoined is a Table showing the causes of the Deaths among Infants under one year of age.

TABLE II.

ANALYSIS OF INFANT DEATHS.

CAUSE OF DEATH	Total at all periods up to 1 yr.	Under 1 mth.	1—3 months	4—6 months	7—9 months	10—11 months
Congenital Malformations	5	3	1	—	1	—
Broncho-Pneumonia	 5	2	2	1	—	—
Prematurity	 3	3	—	—	—	—
Gastro-Enteritis	 3	1	1	1	—	—
Heart Failure	 1	1	—	—	—	—
Pyloric Stenosis	 1	—	1	—	—	—

In the next Table are shown the chief causes of Death and number of Deaths from each cause in 1950.

T A B L E I I I .

Cause of Death.	Number of Deaths. 1950.
Meningococal Infection	—
Measles	—
Whooping Cough	—
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	34
Diphtheria	—
Influenza	2
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	3
Tuberculosis, Other	1
Cancer	31
Heart Disease	106
Bronchitis	14
Pneumonia	11
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	4
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—
Suicide	—
Accidents	7
Other Diseases	56
	269

2. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

LABORATORY ARRANGEMENTS.

Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Laboratories of Wigan Royal Infirmary and the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester, and the arrangements are satisfactory. A report on every examination is made to the Public Health Department.

During 1950 reports were made to the Authority on the following specimens:—7 Throat Swabs; 5 Samples of Water; 63 Samples of Milk.

AMBULANCE ARRANGEMENTS.

During the year Infectious, Non-Infectious, Accident and Maternity Cases were dealt with by the motor ambulances belonging to the Lancashire County Council stationed at the Hindley Ambulance Depot. The service was quite satisfactory.

HOSPITALS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

General Medical and Surgical:—

Ancoats Infirmary, Manchester; Royal Infirmary, Manchester, and Salford Royal Infirmary; Wigan Royal Albert Edward Infirmary; Bolton Infirmary; Billinge Hospital and Leigh Infirmary.

Children:—Pendlebury Children's Hospital and Ancoats Infirmary.

Venereal Diseases:—Wigan Royal Albert Edward Infirmary.

Tuberculosis:—County Sanatoria and Hospital.

Chronic Sick:—Billinge Hospital.

Mental Diseases:—County Mental Hospitals.

Ear, Nose and Throat:—Manchester and Wigan Infirmaries.

Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia:—Arrangements with the Wigan and Leigh Hospital Management Committee.

These facilities are duly appreciated and freely used by the inhabitants of Hindley.

3. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Water Supply is conducted from the Rivington water main of the Liverpool Corporation to a service reservoir at Westthoughton, from which it is distributed throughout the district. The supply is constant, good and sufficient, and the possibilities of contamination are very slight.

The piped supply of water to the township was examined three times bacteriologically and twice chemically during the year 1950, and found to be satisfactory.

All houses in the district have a piped supply of water from the main, with the exception of 3 houses in the fields.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The Drainage System is of the usual type; storm water and sewage being carried away in a common sewer.

Drain testing, flushing, etc., is carried out as required.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No action has been required with regard to the pollution of streams.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION (at the end of 1950):—

Number of Privy Middens	....	....	....	23
Number of Closets attached to Privy Middens				29
Number of Pail Closets	...	...	...	20
Number of Freshwater Closets	....	....		5930
Number of Waste Water Closets	...	...		4
Number of Dry Ashpits for Refuse	...	...		Nil.
Number of Moveable Ashbins for Refuse	....			5934
Number of Houses on Water Carriage System				5617

Fresh water closet accommodation is provided for all new property erected in the district.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

A weekly collection of House Refuse is carried out by the Local Authority, under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

Privy middens and ashbins are emptied regularly by day throughout the year, and three motor vehicles are engaged in the removal of refuse to controlled tips.

There is no destructor in the district.

The Scavenging of streets is under the supervision of the Surveyor.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA.

Number of premises visited	....	....	....	1356
Number of Nuisances discovered	....	....	....	2393
Number of Nuisances abated	....	....	....	1930
Number of Informal Notices served	....	....	....	191
Number of Statutory Notices served	....	....	....	75
Number of Legal Proceedings	....	....	....	—

SHOPS AND OFFICES.

No action has been taken during the year under the provision, of the Shops Act, 1934, and the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the ventilation and temperature of shops and offices, and to sanitary conveniences.

CAMPING SITES.

There are none in the district.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Contact is maintained between the Officers of the Health Department and the local Works Managers with regard to smoke abatement.

A time limit of 2 minutes in each half-hour has been fixed for the emission of black smoke from factory and works chimneys.

The Authority is represented on the Manchester and District Smoke Abatement Committee.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are none in the district.

DISINFESTATION OF VERMINOUS PREMISES.

2 houses were found to be infested and were dealt with by spraying with Killgercide Insecticide containing 5% D.D.T. This method has proved highly efficient.

Periodical inspection of houses is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector, to prevent infestation or re-infestation after cleansing.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The Knackers Yard is kept under constant supervision by the Sanitary Inspector, and trade is carried on there without offence.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are none in the district.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Regular visits were paid to factories and workshops under the Factories Act, 1937, and their condition was found satisfactory.

SCHOOLS.

The water supply to the Schools in the area is constant and sufficient.

Regular lime-washing of conveniences is arranged for by the Education Authority in the case of all Schools in the area.

4. HOUSING.

The township consists chiefly of working class houses, which are built in rows, and old in type.

The standard of repair has been well maintained, despite the great difficulties of shortage of labour and building materials.

The worst cases of pre-war overcrowding were relieved, but the situation is bad again, owing to servicemen's families having to live with their parents, due to an actual shortage of houses.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of new houses erected during the year:

(a) Total	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	34
(i) By the Local Authority	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	34
(ii) By other Authorities	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	Nil
(iii) By other bodies and persons	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	Nil

1. INSPECTION of dwelling-houses during the year:

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 720
- (b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose 1457
- (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 —
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... —
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 3
(3 families re-housed).
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.... 646

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS during the year without service of Formal Notices:

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 554

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS during the year:

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... —

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices

(a) By owners ... —

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners .. —

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 306

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices

(a) By Owners 65

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners —

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made —

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders —

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made —

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit —

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding:

(a) Revised survey necessary to ascertain reasonably accurately.

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year —

(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 34

(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases 102

5. **INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.**(a) **MILK SUPPLY.**

An adequate supply of milk is produced within, or brought into the district.

During 1950 63 samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination, the standards adopted being the Methylene Blue Test, together with the Phosphatase Test in the case of Pasteurised Milk. 61 samples were satisfactory and 2 unsatisfactory.

When a cow is suspected of suffering from any disease, the County Police arrange for a local Veterinary Surgeon to examine the animal.

(b) **MEAT.**—There are no slaughterhouses open in the district.

Routine inspections are made of meatshops, etc., and the Clean Meat Regulations are enforced. All diseased meat is at once seized by the Sanitary Inspector.

No legal proceedings were necessary during the year.

6. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During 1950, cases of Infectious Disease, requiring hospital treatment, were removed to the Astley and Whelley Sanatoria of the Wigan and Leigh Hospital Management Committee, by agreement.

14 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year, as against 53 in 1949, and of the 14 cases, 5 were removed to hospital for treatment.

No cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year, compared with one in the previous year.

Supplies of Diphtheria Antitoxin are kept at the Divisional Health Office and the local Hospital.

As stated earlier in the Report, 7 Throat Swabs were reported upon to the Authority by the Wigan Infirmary Laboratory.

Free immunisation against Diphtheria is provided for any pre-school or school-child, and is performed at the Central Clinic. During 1950, 192 pre-school and 20 school children were immunised with two injections of Alum Precipitated Toxoid, and 85 children received reinforcing injections.

No preliminary and no post-Schick tests were undertaken.

No immunisation against the Enteric Group was undertaken during 1950.

No local action has been taken with regard to the use of measles serum for prophylaxis or attenuation, and there are no existing facilities for the typing of pneumococci and for the provision of appropriate type sera.

The general standard of cleanliness and habits in the district remains high, and the cases of infestation by head lice dealt with at the Clinic were few, and were successfully treated with Lethane Oil and D.D.T. Emulsion.

It is pleasing to report that there was no outbreak of Food Poisoning during the year.

CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGN.

Advice on the handling of food was circularised to Food Shops and Premises.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

No action was taken by the Authority during the year, under Section 47 of this Act.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1950.
T A B L E I V.

Number of cases of Infectious Disease notified; number of Deaths from these Diseases; number of cases removed to Hospital; and Deaths in Hospital during the year 1950.

DISEASE	Total Cases All Ages	Under 1	1-3	3-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 and Over	Age Unknown	Total Deaths	Total Cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital persons belonging to district
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	14	—	—	5	7	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—
Diphtheria, including Membranous Croup	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever (excluding Paratyphoid)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles (excluding rubella)	83	4	16	28	35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	29	2	8	8	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Acute pneumonia (primary and influenzal)	9	1	1	—	1	—	—	2	2	2	—	11	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Meningococcal infection	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1
Paralytic	3	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-paralytic	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
infective	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Post Infectious	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	7	—	—	—	1	—
TOTALS	149	7	28	42	55	2	—	4	9	2	—	11	12	1

DISINFECTION.

Disinfection of premises and materials is carried out by the staff of the Public Health Department.

All dwelling-houses are dealt with on death, removal to hospital, or release from isolation of infectious cases.

During 1950, 33 houses were disinfected by the Department.

Houses are disinfected by the method of Formalin Spray or Sulphur Dioxide, and it is usual in the district, to disinfect after Phthisis, but not as routine after Measles.

The Steam Disinfector at the Gas Yard, Cross Street, was utilised for the Disinfection of the Clothing, Bedding, etc., of patients not removed to hospital.

CANCER.

31 deaths (15 male and 16 female) were certified as due to Cancer during the year.

Facilities for Radium treatment are available to Hindley residents at the Radium Institute, Manchester, and at the Wigan Infirmary, which, for this purpose, is a sub-clinic of the Manchester Centre.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No local action has been taken under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention of blindness, or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

The administration of the Blind Persons Act, 1920, is undertaken in this area by the staff of the County Medical Officer of Health.

TUBERCULOSIS.

This service is under the control of the Regional Hospital Board, and Hindley cases attend at the Dispensary in Millgate, Wigan.

14 new cases of Tuberculosis were notified during 1950, 5 being cases of Pulmonary, and 9 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis. 3 deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis were registered during the year.

Notification of the disease in the district is quite satisfactory, and no action has been necessary under the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal of tuberculous patients to Hospital.

The subjoined Table shows the new cases of Tuberculosis and the deaths in age groups.

TABLE V.
TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Years								
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2—5	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
5—10	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—
20—25	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—
45—55	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
55—65	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
65—75	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
75 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	3	2	5	4	2	1	1	—
	5		9		3		1	

TABLE VI.

Causes of and Ages at Death for the Year 1950. •

Causes of Death.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined Ages of Residents whether occurring within or without the District.									
	Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and Up.	All ages	
	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M	F
1—Tuberculosis, Respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	2	1
2—Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...
3—Syphilitic Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4—Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5—Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6—Meningococcal Infections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
7—Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
8—Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9—Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
10—Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	3 4	4	5
11—Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...
12—Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	4
13—Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	2
14—Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	...	...	...	...	...	...	4 1	6 4	10	5
15—Leukaemia; Aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
16—Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2
17—Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	...	...	...	...	1	...	8 4	14 7	22	12
18—Coronary Disease, Angina	...	...	...	...	...	1	4 3	7 5	12	8
19—Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	2 2	4 1	6	3
20—Other Heart Disease	1	...	...	1 2	1	2 3	9 5	19 34	32	45
21—Other Circulatory Disease	...	...	...	...	...	1 2	1	5 7	7	9
22—Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1
23—Pneumonia	1...3	...	...	1	...	...	1 1	4	6	5
24—Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	7 6	8	6
25—Other Diseases of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
26—Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
27—Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	2 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	2
28—Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	...	...	...	1	1 1	1	3	1
29—Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
30—Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
31—Congenital Malformations	4 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	1
32—Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	3 2	...	1	...	...	1	4 3	7 7	14	14
33—Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	...
34—All other Accidents	...	...	2	...	1	1	1	...	5	...
35—Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
36—Homicide and Operations of War	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS	11 7	...	2 1	1 3	1 2	8 7	38 26	81 81	142	127

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR 1950.



To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my thirty-fifth Annual Report of the work of the Health Department for the year 1950.

The records show the activities of the Council have been maintained in remedying sanitary defects and improving the amenities of the district, chiefly by the administration of the Public Health and Housing Acts.

HOUSING.

A continuous survey of housing conditions was maintained. The action taken was chiefly under the Public Health Act, as we are unable to act freely under the Housing Act at the present time, owing to the acute shortage of houses.

Many houses scheduled for demolition prior to the war have so deteriorated during the intervening years that demolition at the earliest opportunity is apparently the only satisfactory remedy. We are endeavouring to keep these weatherproof and asking for essential repairs only.

Building materials are not so difficult to obtain as in previous years, but the high cost of labour and materials has its effect on the extent of the repair work. Property owners generally carry out only the minimum requirements necessary to maintain the property in a reasonable state, and there are many in this township who are suffering great hardship by having to meet large repair bills on low controlled rentals. Despite the many difficulties, progress is being made in repairs, and the housing standard is fairly high considering the age of properties within the district (I exclude the two areas comprising 79 houses which were scheduled for clearance in 1937 and to which only essential repairs to keep them habitable can reasonably be demanded). In addition, there are approximately 260 individual

houses which it is proposed to demolish immediately circumstances are favourable.

During the year it was found necessary to re-house three tenants—two from the clearance areas and one from the individual houses, owing to the conditions being considered prejudicial to the health of the occupiers.

It is extremely difficult to find accommodation for occupants of unfit houses when the authority have over 1,000 applicants for houses on the register, and with a limited allocation of new Council houses. Overcrowding is pronounced, and the demand is increasing. The Council give every assistance, and are building as rapidly as circumstances permit, but the fact remains that houses are not available.

The houses built post-war by the Council and completed to the 31st December, 1950, number 232:—

100—B.S.F.s.

50—Orlit.

20—3-Bedroom type C. Traditional.

16—1 Bedroom Bungalows.

46—3-Bedroom type Traditional.

Completed during the year 1950—34.

56 Traditional, 26 Bungalows and 32 3-Bedroom Parlour-type houses are in course of erection.

LICENSING OF BUILDING MATERIALS AND COMPONENTS.

The number of Licences issued for repairs to existing buildings under the Order totalled 7, to the estimated sum of £3,900, including £2,500 to be spent on re-conditioning 12 houses in Swan Lane. It was also necessary to give 114 Priority Certificates for builders to obtain timber.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

A weekly collection is operative throughout the district, despite a

reduction in working hours and the introduction of a five-day week for most of the year. Three motor vehicles are continually on this service.

In the district there are approximately 6,100 bins and 20 pails to be emptied weekly, from which about 7,500 tons of refuse is collected annually. Hindley is now free of all dry ashpits.

In addition there are 23 privy closets involving 29 houses. These properties are a considerable distance from the sewer, and will necessitate an extensive drainage scheme.

Two drainage schemes, involving 16 and 8 houses (16 pails and 8 privies respectively) are in hand, and I am pleased to be able to record the commencement of the Amberswood Scheme. These will subsequently be converted to the water carriage system.

KITCHEN WASTE.

A weekly collection of kitchen waste continues. Householders have been circularised to conserve all vegetable waste, and place same in the 125 receptacles placed at intervals throughout the district. The contents are conveyed to the Wigan Corporation Cleansing Depot for treatment. The amount collected for the twelve months totalled 97 tons 13 cwts. There is a regular house-to-house collection made by Pig-keepers outside of the Order, thus the quantity collected by the Local Authority does not reach a high standard.

WASTE PAPER.

The collection of this material continues. One vehicle is engaged one day per week collecting, and is supplemented by the refuse men from their daily rounds. We have had a ready market with the Thames Board Mills Ltd. The total amount collected was $71\frac{1}{2}$ tons, a decrease of 18 tons, $16\frac{3}{4}$ cwts., over the previous year. The price increased from £5 to £7 per ton during October.

The income from salvaged materials was as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	405	9	0
Bones, Rags, String, etc.	6	11	0
	£412	0	0

MILK SUPPLY.

An adequate supply is produced and brought into the district, the chief demand being for bottled milk. Retail purveyors on the register at the end of the year were 6 Producer Retailers, 3 Dairymen and 146 Retailers of bottled milk (8 Tuberculin Tested, 1 Accredited, 33 Pasteurised and 104 Sterilised).

25 samples of milk were submitted for Tuberculosis. 24 were found to be negative and 1 positive.

An enquiry was carried out by officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and further samples were certified as being non-tuberculous.

38 samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination. 37 were satisfactory and 1 unsatisfactory.

WATER SUPPLY.

All houses in the district have the town's supply laid on excepting:

Barlow's Farm—Agricultural only.

Good Cheap Farm—Agricultural only.

Six Acre Farm—Agricultural only.

PROVISION AND REPLACEMENT OF ASHBINS.

Ashbins falling into disrepair, numbering 262, were renewed through the activities of the Health Department. The standard bin is in general use.

VAN DWELLINGS.

We have again been harassed with van dwellers. Usually they squat on four land sites which are owned or leased to the Council for tipping purposes, or on two sites which are under private ownership. 191 "Visitors" were dealt with during the year. The sites are often left untidy and in an insanitary condition. Statutory Notices have been served on occasions and it has frequently been necessary to seek the aid of the Police who have given your staff every assistance. I would like to record my thanks for their co-operation at all times.

Three sites have been fenced off during the year, since which time there has been a falling off in their visits to other sites.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There is only one such business established in your area, the Knackers Yard. It continues to be well conducted. All offensive matter is frequently removed or destroyed. Rodent infestations are periodically attacked.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Infested buildings and dwellings numbering 2 were sprayed with Kiligercide Insecticide containing 5 per cent. D.D.T. with satisfactory results.

DISINFECTION.

Disinfectants supplied free (liquid and powder), special bottles being provided. A charge of 6d. is made for the first bottle and is renewed free in exchange for the empty bottle. During the year 940 bottles were supplied to residents, 317 at the Health Office, 288 at your Distribution Station at Platt Bridge, and 335 at your Hindley Green station—142 sales and 798 re-issues.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Each house is visited and enquiries made relative to the source of infection and general home conditions. Recommendations are made and advice given regarding isolation of the patient and care to be exercised by contacts.

Public Library books from infected premises are taken over by the Public Health Department and disinfected before being returned to the Library for re-distribution. Books in an unserviceable condition are, by arrangement with the Librarian, destroyed.

All houses are disinfected after various forms of Infectious Disease including Tuberculosis, with a solution of Formalin, although Formic Vapour lamps in a gaseous form and sulphur candles are used in certain cases.

The Elementary and Grammar Schools are sprayed internally with a disinfectant solution during each holiday vacation—Easter, Whitsun, Summer, October and Christmas.

Schools disinfected—28.

During the year 33 houses were disinfected after Infectious Disease. 246 articles of clothing passed through the steam disinfectant.

Number of articles destroyed, chiefly flock beds and mattresses:16.

MEAT INSPECTION.

All butchers meat is controlled by the Ministry of Food. The meat supply for your district comes mainly from the Wigan Slaughter Houses, the distribution centre for this area, local slaughter houses having been out of commission since January, 1940.

Domestic Pig-Keepers are allowed to slaughter within certain limits, personally reared and fed animals, by permission of the Ministry of Food.

Pigs (killed for home consumption) inspected—12.

Area Licences to slaughter animals were granted to 8 slaughtermen under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

The following food was condemned as unfit for human consumption:—

Beef 50 lbs.

Venison 220 lbs.

Fowl	37 lbs.
Canned Meat....	64 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Frozen Rabbits	240 lbs.
Canned Vegetables	207 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Canned Fruit	8 $\frac{7}{8}$ lbs.
Pears	80 lbs.
Tinned Milk	88 tins.
Tinned Soup	4 tins.
Jams and Marmalade	70 lbs.
Tinned Fish	3 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Bacon	38 lbs.
Pickles and Sauces	25 jars.
Frozen Liquid Egg	56 lbs.
Butter	14 lbs.
Oatmeal	75 lbs.
Jellies	144 packets.
Shredded Wheat.....	1 packet.
Cornflakes	2 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.
Figs	51 lbs.
Dates	29 lbs.
Ginger Wine	1 bottle.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND GENERAL SANITARY WORK.

Nuisances brought forward from 1949	552
Nuisances reported to Committee during 1950....	2393
Nuisances abated during 1950	1930
Number of letters sent	311

Number of Preliminary Notices	191
Number of Statutory Notices	75
Number of School Notices	15
Number of Parents' Notices	9
Number of Houses Disinfected	33
Number of Articles Disinfected	246
Factories	71
Knackers Yard	25
Bakehouses	26
Picture Halls	14
Number of Visits re Infectious Disease	53

SUMMARY OF NUISANCES DEALT WITH.

Defective Water Supply and Cistern and W.C. Pedestals	230
Defective and choked drains	236
Defective Roofs	196
Defective Gutters, Gullies and Downspouts.....	179
Irregular and Insanitary Yard Surfaces.....	15
Defective Brickwork to Yard and other Walls....	97
Chimney Stacks, Smoky Chimneys	24
Absence of Refuse Receptacles	332
Dampness	59
Defective Doors, Door Frames, Windows and Window Frames	261
Insufficient Light and Ventilation	4
Insanitary Slop Sinks and Waste Pipes	53
Defective Grates and Washboilers	81
Defective Plasterwork	222

Defective Floors	95
Verminous Houses	2
Insanitary Condition of Premises	2
Living Vans so placed	191
Insanitary Condition of Factories & Workshops	14
Other Nuisances	98

FACTORIES ACT.

Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces, including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector:—

Premises	Number of Inspec- tions.	Written Notices
Factories, Mechanical Power (50)	50	6
Factories, Non-Mechanical Power (6)	16	—
Building Sites (3)	10	—
	76	6

DEFECTS FOUND.

Nuisances under the Public Health Acts.

Particulars.	Found.	Remedied.
Want of Cleanliness	5	5
Other Nuisances	9	8
TOTAL	14	13

BAKERIES AND BAKEHOUSES.

The number of bakeries and bakehouses in the district is 16. Periodical inspections are made. In a few instances it has been necessary to draw occupiers' attention to minor defects, and to the fact that limewashing was necessary. In each case these matters were given prompt attention.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

The following samples were submitted for analysis, many of which were obtained in conjunction with the County Sanitary Officer, Mr. J. C. Almond:—

Milk (formal samples)	41
Vanilla Flavouring Essence	1
Almond Flavouring Essence.....	1
Cheese	1
Bacon	1
Butter	2
Cooking Fat	1
Margarine	1
Coconut Flavouring Essence	1
Pineapple Flavouring Essence	1
Queen Cakes	1
Mince Tarts	1
Maid of Honours	1
Parrißh's Chemical Food	4
Zinc Ointment	4
Icing Sugar	2
Sugar	1
Castor Sugar	1
Flour	4

Table Jelly	4
Custard Powder	4
Dried Peas	3
Lentils	1
Sandwich Cakes	1
Doughnuts	1
Iced Buns	1
Cream Buns	1
Bread	3
Brown Bread	1

All the above samples were certified by the County Analyst to be genuine with the exception of the following:—

Sample.	Result of Analysis.
2 Parrish's Chemical Food—Labels stated “a compound syrup of hypophosphates of lime, iron potash and soda”; should read “a compound syrup of phosphates of lime, iron potash and soda.”	

Action taken—Vendors communicated with.

1 Table Jelly (Unsweetened)—Described as Unsweetened Table Jelly. Contravention of Food Standards (Table Jelly) Order, 1949.	
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Action taken—Packers communicated with.
Withdrawal of outstanding stocks.

1 Formal Milk.....	Deficient of 8.3 per cent. Fat.
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Action taken—Vendor notified.

ICE CREAM.

This is a popular food and it is, therefore, essential that a hygienic product possessing the necessary “food value” should be available to the public.

There are two large manufacturers in the district; both have co-operated with the Health Officers and brought their premises, plant, and hygienic methods of manufacture up to a standard consistent with modern requirements. The product is heat treated in both cases.

There are now 46 retailers of iced products on the register. Each is provided with the usual modern refrigerator, and licensed only to sell ice cream wrapped or in cartons.

14 samples were submitted for examination by the methylene blue test for ice cream. The results were as follows:—

6 samples	Grade 1
3 samples	Grade 2
2 samples	Grade 3
3 samples	Grade 4

ICE LOLLIES.

6 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination.

3 samples were free from coliform organisms and

3 samples contained organisms of a non-faecal type.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

In September, 1947, the Council adopted a time limit consistent with the National Smoke Abatement Council's recommendation of a maximum emission of 2 minutes per half hour.

No formal action was necessary during the year. The factories in the district are in the main driven by electric power. Only on rare occasions is it necessary to contact industrial firms who endeavour to co-operate in every way to minimise the nuisance from smoke.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

Dunlop Mills.—Remedial measures were taken in connection with the dust extraction plant at these mills, which emitted the dust

extracted from the raw cotton direct into the atmosphere. The Company have now installed a new purification plant which is working efficiently.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT.

The Rodent Operative was engaged throughout the year on infestations within the district. Periodical inspections were made and infestations attacked with success. The sewers were treated twice during the year, and where "Takes" observed, poisons laid. Refuse Tips and Sewage Disposal Works were also kept clear of the pests.

Sausage Rusks or Bread Mash formed the prebait, to which Zinc Phosphide or Arsenious Oxide was added as the poisoning media.

In accordance with the Grant Aided Scheme under the provisions of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries circular, the Council give a free service for rodent infestations found at dwelling houses.

I desire to tender my sincere thanks to the Chairman of the Public Health Committee and the Council, the Clerk and other Officials, and Members of the Staff, for their co-operation and assistance.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

THOS. FRANCE,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Engineer and Surveyor's Office,
Town Hall,
Hindley,

January, 1951.

Particulars of Rainfall recorded at Platt Bridge Sewage Works
during the year ending 31st December, 1950.

Height of Rain Gauge—98.64 feet above Sea Level.

Area of Hindley—2612.182 Statute Acres.

Month	No. of days on which rain fell.		Maximum fall in 24 hours in inches.		Total Monthly Rainfall in inches
January			12	0.69 2nd	1.84
February			17	0.88 9th	4.61
March			14	0.52 23rd	1.87
April			21	0.35 17th	2.75
May			11	0.32 1st	1.44
June			16	0.47 20th	2.33
July			16	1.10 13th	3.76
August			21	0.82 18th	6.74
September			25	1.30 6th	6.18
October			13	0.49 10th	2.99
November			21	0.55 11th	4.86
December			20	0.81 30th	4.26
Totals for the year 1950			207		43.63

Total weight of rain which fell in Hindley during the year 1950:—
11,500,737 tons.

Previous Annual Rainfall in Inches										
1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
41.23	37.82	33.51	34.78	37.96	43.55	37.19	46.15	30.67	37.12	37.80

T. G. GRIME, A.M. INST. MUN. E.

Engineer and Surveyor.

